

CONGRESSMAN SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY)
OPENING STATEMENT FOR GREEN CHEMISTRY MARK-UP
April 13, 2005

I want to welcome everyone here today as we belatedly complete our March 17 mark-up. We have just one bill before us today, and an important one, to create a focused and intensified research program in green chemistry.

While we liked the idea of moving green chemistry on St. Patrick's Day, there's no need to have a special day to move forward with this bill. Indeed, the whole point is to make environmentally benign chemistry a part of everyday life. So let me just say a few words about the bill.

This bill was introduced in the last Congress and in this one by Mr. Gingrey, who is no longer on our Committee, but who is still deeply interested in this subject.

This bill is just common sense. We need to put our scientific expertise to work to solve societal problems. Certainly one reason the government funds science is for societal improvement. So we ought to be encouraging the funding of green chemistry, which can result in new products and processes that are better for our environment.

This bill has broad support, including the support of leading chemical companies and organizations. We got this bill through the House handily in the last Congress, and working with Senators Snowe and Rockefeller, we will get it signed into law this Congress.

Those with long memories may remember that last year we had a contentious mark-up on this bill. But between mark-up and the floor we reached a bipartisan agreement and that agreement is reflected in the language before us today. Thus we have very few amendments this time around.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill. And let me say that it is just as appropriate to pass this bill as we approach Income Tax Day as it was on St. Patrick's Day. Not only are both days associated with green, but this is a bill that will put taxpayers' money to work to solve real and critical problems in an efficient and effective way. I hope to move it swiftly through the House.